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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMENTS MAKING IN WASHINGTON.

A letter from Mr. SAEGMÜLLER, of Washington, D. C., notifies that during the past year his works have completed a nine-inch *photographic* transit-instrument, with collimators, for the observatory of Georgetown College; that a four-and-one-half-inch meridian-circle has just been finished for the observatory of the Catholic University of America (Professor SEARLE); and that a photographic equatorial, a combined transit and zenith telescope, position-micrometer, and a chronograph are now in hand for Cordoba, Argentine Republic, (Dr. THOME). The observatory of Notre Dame College, at South Bend, Indiana, has ordered a seven-inch equatorial, a transit, a clock, and a chronograph; and four other equatorials are in process of construction (apertures, five to nine inches). E. S. H.

REQUEST TO ASTRONOMERS REGARDING EPHEMERIDES OF COMETS, ETC.

The *Astronomische Nachrichten* and other European journals are received at Mount Hamilton from twenty days to a month after their dates of publication, and we frequently find that the ephemerides of comets, etc., as printed, have expired when the journal reaches us. Computers will confer a great favor upon the LICK Observatory if they will remember this delay of twenty to thirty days in printing their ephemerides, or if they will kindly send a *ms.* ephemeris by letter. It is not always possible for us to spare the time to extend an ephemeris. The orbits of comets discovered at Mount Hamilton are always calculated here, but for other comets we must depend, in general, upon orbits and ephemerides computed elsewhere. Edward S. Holden.

1896, January 4.

New Edition (1895) of Professor Young's Book on the Sun.

The publishers of the International Scientific Series have issued a new and revised edition of Professor Young's book on the *Sun*, which will be, like its predecessor, indispensable in every astronomical library. E. S. H.

Progress of the Astronomical Society of France.

The number of members of the Society at the end of each calendar year is given in the table following:

1887,	90 members.	1891,	455 members.
1888,	188 "	1892,	552 "
1889,	288 "	1893,	640 "
1890,	366 "	1894,	742 "
1895,	1133 members.		

The Society is to be congratulated, not only upon its rapid growth, but upon the excellent journal which it issues monthly, the *Bulletin de la Société Astronomique de France*, an octavo of more than 400 pages, well illustrated. E. S. H.

Nomenclature of the Asteroids, Etc.

It may be interesting to recall a bit of ancient history with regard to the nomenclature of the asteroids, though it is entirely too late to hope for a reform. In the *Astronomical Journal*, vol. i., p. 134 (1850), Dr. Gould, the editor, has a note upon the discovery of a new planet by Hind. "Mr. Hind has selected the name *Victoria*, with a star surrounded by a laurel wreath for a symbol. Such nomenclature is at variance with established usage," Dr. Gould goes on to say, "and is liable to the objections which very properly led astronomers to reject the names *Medicean Stars*, *Georgium Sidus*, *Ceres Ferdinandea*, etc., and even those of the astronomers Herschel and Leverrier, for the adoption of whose names some arguments might be adduced." In the same volume of the *Journal* (page 139), Mr. W. C. Bond, Director of Harvard College Observatory, writes on the same